

The Lab Kids

By Dora Liu

The first thing I saw was Dad, looking down at me while I lay in my crib. His smile was soft and gentle. The next thing I knew, I had learned to crawl in just a few days. When I turned 5 years old, Mom made me sit in a room on a hard, wooden stool. She gave me a small chunk of a diamond. She told me to hold it with two fingers and crush it. “What if I fail,” I said, feeling worried. “I don’t think I’m strong enough.”

“Just try,” she said. “Let’s see what you’re made of.” I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and pressed my fingers together, expecting it to still be whole. I opened one eye slowly, waiting for the worst to happen. But the diamond had broken into two pieces. “I always knew you could do it,” Mom said proudly. “Now go to bed, tomorrow, we will continue the test.”

I looked back at the pieces of diamond. How could I have crushed them? After all, I was only a boy. A normal human child. Or that’s who I thought I was.

Chapter 1

I was already 12, but I hadn’t uncovered the truth about my family until today. Something suspicious was going on. While organizing my closet, I stumbled upon an item I had never seen before under the mountain of things I had carelessly thrown inside. It was a teddy bear, missing its right arm and looking beat up. There was a name on it. The bear belonged to a child named Dawn. I was creeped out. I thought I was the first child! Digging deeper, I found more of her items buried under the pile.

“Dad!” I shouted, and he walked through the doorway. “What’s all this?”

“Oh, those belonged to your twin sister. She died in an accident.” he said. This was quite unsettling. I remember Mom telling me about how one of my other siblings died. Her response was the same. What if Dad and Mom did something to her? When Dad left the room, I dug deeper in the closet and found an envelope. Dawn’s file was inside. I read it.

Experiment Number: 4.

Experiment Name: Dawn.

Ability: All.

Test Result: Fail.

Note: If experiment fails test, they must be eliminated as soon as possible.

My theory was right. My parents were murderers! I couldn’t help but wonder what was in my file. I thought it might be in the “Forbidden Room.” It was the room all my siblings and I weren’t allowed in. I waited until 1:00 A.M. and snuck carefully into the basement. I opened the door and found another door, heavily secured with a passcode and an eye recognition scan. At first I panicked, but then I remembered how I crushed the diamond, and I busted through the door like it was nothing.

What I saw inside was terrible. There were children, floating in cylinder-shaped tanks filled with greenish liquid. The tanks were labeled A, B, C, D, all the way to Z, but only A to G were empty. My feet carried me over to the “D” tank, and a shiver ran down

my spine as I realized that was probably where I came from. I was made in a science lab, merely a test subject, kept hidden from the rest of the world.

Suddenly, I saw Mom walk over with a syringe. She saw me for sure, I thought, but she didn't. I looked at the glass on the tank. My reflection wasn't there, which meant I was invisible!

Mom opened a hatch to an area where she could stick her hand inside the tank. She injected a chemical into the child's arm. "Mom!" I shouted. "What's all this?!"

I realized in my anger, I turned visible again and let myself be found. "Dusk." She said coldly. "It's about time you found out our little secret. Unfortunately, now that you know the truth, I can't let you go around telling everyone. So, I'll just have to erase all your memories." Mom took out a tranquilizer gun and shot me. I fell asleep almost instantly. When I woke up, I was in a cage made with thick layers of plexiglass. I tried smashing the glass, but it was no use. Then I noticed a little crack. I kept punching it until there was a hole big enough for me to crawl through. I found some file cabinets in a corner. I flipped through the files and pulled mine out to read it.

Experiment Number: 4.

Experiment Name: Dusk.

Ability: All.

Test Result: Pass.

Note: If experiment fails test, they must be eliminated as soon as possible.

I decided to save the second page for later when I had more time to read it. Right now, I had to escape. I opened the door carefully and slipped through. Then I found the disguise door and tried to open it, but I must have been quite stressed, because I phased through the door. If I could do that, maybe I could phase through the wall too. And then I saw the outside. It was sunny and bright, with colorful flowers everywhere. Glancing back at the house. I notice It was cleverly disguised to appear like any other ordinary house, likely to avoid suspicion. The fence was tall and the gate was locked, but I found myself walking through them without effort.

But someone saw me. It was a tall woman who looked about 20 years old, walking her dog. She screamed and dropped the leash she was holding. She started to call the police. I couldn't let myself be found and lose my freedom once again. My instincts kicked in, and I attacked the woman to knock the phone out of her hand. Before I knew it, she was laying on the ground, unconscious.

"Still the monster you've always been." said Mom, who had been watching me the entire time. "These are the consequences of going outside." I didn't want to listen to her tricks anymore, so I bolted. I wasn't leaving forever though, for I had promised myself to come back to rescue my siblings from this horrid place.